

Dear Commissioner Henney,

RE: Docket Nos. 00N-1396 and 00D-1598

I am extremely disappointed in the FDA's new policy on genetically engineered (GE) foods. Like the old policy, it fails to require either pre-market safety testing or labeling. Rigorous testing is essential to identify the increased levels of potential toxins and allergens, and the reduced nutrient levels, that are often found in GE foods (e.g. Roundup Ready soybeans). Without *mandatory* labeling, neither consumers nor their doctors will know whether an allergic or toxic reaction was due to a genetically engineered food. "Voluntary labeling" is a sham — companies can already provide truthful labels if they so choose.

Commissioner Henney, both sound science and overwhelming public opinion call for mandatory, independent safety testing and labeling of genetically engineered foods. In addition, biotech companies should be made to bear full responsibility for any harms these novel foods may cause.

Sincerely yours,

Name:

Kate Garrison

Address:

325 E 79

Signature



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